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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice limited to
Federal Agencies

April 14, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Art Unit 1634

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/666,890; Filed: September 20, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Marker Ladder for Estimating Mass**
Inventor: James L. Hartley
Our Ref: 0942.2570003/RWE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

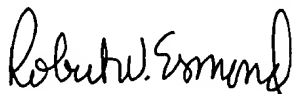
1. Amendment and Reply; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
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RWE/TSC/lam
Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HARTLEY, James L.

Appl. No. 09/666,890

Filed: September 20, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Marker Ladder for
Estimating Mass**

Confirmation No.: 9088

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Whisenant, Ethan C.

Atty. Docket: 0942.2570003/RWE

Amendment and Reply

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated January 31, 2003 (prosecution history paper no. 18) Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along with clear instructions for entry;
- (B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 and MPEP 714; and
- (C) Starting on a separate page, a marked-up version entitled: “Version with markings to show changes made.”

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.